The Boston Computer Society
One Center Plaza
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

BoSTUG
Sinclair/Timex Newsletter

March 1990

BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY
Newsletter of the BoSTUG (Sinclair/Timex User Group)
Vol 9 No 1

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is a sad issue to compile. It marks my final issue as editor of the newsletter, and announces the disbandment of the Sinclair Timex User Group of the Boston Computer Society.

Eight years ago the Sinclair Group was a major force in the establishment of the BCS. Sir Clive turned on a generation of computer users with the ZX-81 and its North American clone the TS-1000.

With the demise of Timex as a computer manufacturer the group began a sure decline to a little over 100 members.

The decision to abandon the S/T User Group resulted from a combination of factors.

First, it had been over a year since anyone had shown up at a general meeting.

Second, the active core of QL users were the only ones who were involved. This generated a lot of work to put out a newsletter that no one except QL users were interested in.

Third, came the increase in BCS membership fees that made annual membership cost more than a new computer.

Finally, the BCS red tape grew to the point where it stopped being fun to look after the affairs of state.

As a result the QL users voted in January to start the independent New England Sinclair QL User Group (NESQLUG), with $10.00 annual fees, meeting bi-monthly (for now) and planning a quarterly newsletter.

None of the above should pass without appropriate recognition of Pam Bybell, the BCS Manager of User Group Support. Throughout my tenure as general factotum she has provided cheerful support and general assistance in many areas.

If I have any regrets about the QL users decision to separate, it is that I will miss Pam.

Thank you Pam, for being so alive.

Peter Hale

Interested QL users who wish to join the New England Sinclair User Group should contact Richard Taylor, 309 Holly Cir., Tiverton, RI 02878.

Membership is $10.00 per year.

The newsletter's exchange policy will remain the same. Sinclair/ Timex User groups should forward exchange issues to Joyce Blaho, 971 Fellsway, Medford, MA 02155.

SIMPLE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
(what goes around comes around)

Many fans of Sinclair computers have thought that Sir Clive's genius is not fully appreciated because Alan Sugar of the British firm AMSTRAD refused to license QDOS, the operating system for the Sinclair QL.

It was believed that he saw the QL as a major threat to his investment in the manufacture and marketing of MS-DOS clones.

The January 1, issue of Barron's listed the major loser's on the London Stock exchange during 1989. Of companies with market capitalization over £25 million, AMSTRAD tied for first place posting a 77% drop in share value over the 12 month period.

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AN APOLOGY

The back cover of the September/ Octber 1989 issue reproduced two scatalogical cartoons. A number of people found them to be in poor taste.

The most charitable comments were that it reflected a lapse of judgement by a here-to-fore responsible editor.

Others were of the opinion expressed by the letter to the editor below.

I wish to apologize to any and all who found the reproductions offensive and to observe that the decision to terminate the ST User group was a totally unrelated event.

Peter Hale

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please remove my name from your BoSTUG mailing list. If I want bathroom cartoons, I'll look elsewhere.

Disgustedly,

(Signed) Stephen D. Pratt

KEYWHIZ

by Ed Kingsley

The following ALTKEY utility lets you enter the computer's date in European (military) format in any document.

It is useful in Quill to date a letter, but may be used in any program to avoid typing out the date each time.

Caution! It is first necessary to set the date on the QL. These lines must appear in a boot <u>after</u> the date setting routine.

To use, position the cursor where you wish the computer's date to appear. Then press ALT SHIFT D.

If you want US standard format of the date, replace lines 1240 and 1250 with lines 1270 and 1280.

```
1000 REMark ====================
1010 REMark        "KEYWHIZ"
1020 REMark  Altkey's for Psion
1030 REMark --------------------
1040 REMark ====================
1050 REMark 3 Nov 89 e 1 kingsley
1060 :
1070 REMark Prints Date @ Cursor
1080 REMark --------------------
1090 D$=DATE$: d=10
1100 IF D$(10)=0 THEN d=11
1110 Dm$=D$(6 TO 8)
1120 IF Dm$="Jan" : Dm$="January"
1130 IF Dm$="Feb" : Dm$="February"
1140 IF Dm$="Mar" : Dm$="March"
1150 IF Dm$="Apr" : Dm$="April"
1160 IF Dm$="May" : Dm$="May"
1170 IF Dm$="Jun" : Dm$="June"
1180 IF Dm$="Jul" : Dm$="July"
1190 IF Dm$="Aug" : Dm$="August"
1200 IF Dm$="Sep" : Dm$="September"
1210 IF Dm$="Oct" : Dm$="October"
1220 IF Dm$="Nov" : Dm$="November"
1230 IF Dm$="Dec" : Dm$="December"
1240 Dm$=" "&Dm$&" "
1250 ALTKEY'D', D$(d TO 11)&Dm$
     &D$(1 TO 4)
1260 REMark Alternate for US format
1270 REMark Dm$=Dm$&" "
1280 REMark ALTKEY'D', Dm$&D$(d TO
      11)&", "&D$(1 TO 4)
```

CDIR

A SUPERBASIC PROGRAM

CDIR displays and prints directories in column format. If there are more files than can be seen on the screen at once, it breaks them up into 'pages' which can be quickly displayed. There is also an option to mark (in the display screen) files whose name contains a specified string. This allows for quick searches for files. It works by putting the directory into a temporary scratch file and putting all the file names in a string array. They can then be easily printed in column format (up to four per screen). If you have ever frantically looked through old microdrives or floppies for a file, you will appreciate this program. If you are industrious, you can use the program to print out the directory of each medium and keep it handy so you can locate a file when needed.

```
100 REMark          CDIR
110 REMark Column Directory Program
120 REMark    Bill Cable V1.1
130 :
140 REMark   This program puts the
150 REMark directory of a medium in
160 REMark columns on the screen and
170 REMark prints them out if desired.
180 REMark   File names containing a
190 REMark specified string will be found
200 REMark and marked for easy spotting.
210 :
220 scratch$="":fnd$=""
230 cdir
240 :
250 DEFine PROCedure done
260  WINDOW#1,512,206,0,0
270  CLS#0:CLS#1:STOP
280 END DEFine done
290 :
300 DEFine PROCedure cdir
310  WINDOW#1,512,256,0,0
320  WINDOW#2,512,206,0,0
330  heading"Column Directory"
340  IF scratch$=""
350   get_device "For Scratch Pad"
360   scratch$=device$
370   IF scratch$="" THEN done
380  END IF
390  get_device "To Directory"
400  source$=device$
410  IF source$="":done:END IF :AT 10,10
420  PRINT#1,"{making list of files. If error, type : 'close
     #5<ENTER>'}"
430  DELETE scratch$&"tmp_tmp"
440  OPEN_NEW#5,scratch$&"tmp_tmp"
450  DIR#5,source$:CLOSE#5
460  OPEN#5,scratch$&"tmp_tmp"
470  INPUT#5,a$,b$
480  cnt=0:max=1:pos=1
490  REPeat all
500   IF EOF(#5) THEN EXIT all
510   cnt=cnt+1:INPUT#5,i$
520   IF LEN(i$)>max THEN max=LEN(i$)
```

```
530  END REPeat all
540  CLOSE#5:npg=0:page=1
550  IF cnt>0
560   DIM files$(cnt,max):pos=1
570   OPEN#5,scratch$&"tmp_tmp"
580   INPUT#5,a$,b$
590   FOR i=1 TO cnt
600    INPUT#5,i$:files$(i)=i$
610   END FOR i
620   CLOSE#5
630   DELETE scratch$&"tmp_tmp"
640   ncol=INT(80/(max+2))
650   IF ncol>8 THEN ncol=8
660   i=INT((cnt-1)/20)+1
670   IF i<ncol THEN ncol=i
680   set_columns 0,0,0:lpg=0
690  END IF
700  AT 10,0:CLS 4:AT 24,0:CLS 4
710  REPeat options
720   j$="[1-"&npg$&"] page, C(ols),D(ir),P(rt),F(ind),Q(uit) : "
730   show_files 1,page:key$=keyin$(1,24,20,j$)
740   IF key$>="1" AND key$<="9"
750    page=key$
760    IF page<1:page=1
770     ELSE :IF page>npg THEN page=npg
780    END IF
790   END IF
800   IF key$=="c"
810    set_columns 24,20,ncol:page=1:lpg=0
820   END IF
830   IF key$=="d" THEN cdir
840   IF key$=="f"
850    AT 24,20:CLS 4
860    INPUT"Find file names containing : ";fnd$
870    lpg=0
880   END IF
890   IF key$=="p" THEN dir_print
900   IF key$=="q" THEN done
910  END REPeat options
920 END DEFine cdir
930 :
940  DEFine PROCedure set_columns(l,c,d)
950   IF l<>0
960    i$=keyin$(1,l,c,"How many columns [<ENTER= "&d&"] : ")
970    IF CODE(i$)=10 THEN i=d: ELSE i="0"&i$
980    IF i>8 OR i<1 THEN i=d
990   ncol=i:END IF
1000  cwid=INT(80/ncol):npg=INT((cnt-1)/(20*ncol))+1:npg$=npg
1010 END DEFine set_columns
1020 :
1030 DEFine PROCedure show_files(chn,pg)
1040  ll=0
1050  IF pg<>0
1060   IF lpg=pg THEN RETurn
1070  ,heading source$&" : "&a$&" "&b$
1080   IF cnt=0 THEN AT 4,10:PRINT "No Files Found":RETurn
1090   AT 2,0:CLS 2
1100   beg_index=20*ncol*(pg-1)+1:end_index=20*ncol*pg
1110   IF end_index>cnt THEN end_index=cnt
1120   ELSE :beg_index=1:end_index=cnt
1130  END IF
1140  FOR k=beg_index TO end_index
```

```
1150   lin=INT((k-beg_index)/ncol)+3
1160   col=((k-1) MOD ncol)*cwid
1170   IF chn=1 THEN AT lin,col
1180    ELSE :IF lin=ll THEN PRINT#chn,TO col;
1190    ELSE :PRINT #chn:ll=lin:END IF
1200   END IF
1210   IF ncol=1 THEN PRINT#chn,TO 4-LEN(k);k;TO 6
1220   i$=""
1230   IF fnd$=""
1240    PRINT#chn," ";files$(k);
1250    ELSE
1260    IF fnd$ INSTR files$(k)
1270     IF chn=1 THEN UNDER 1:ELSE i$="*"
1280    END IF
1290    PRINT#chn,i$;files$(k);:UNDER 0
1300   END IF
1310  END FOR k
1320  lpg=pg
1330  IF chn=1 THEN AT 24,1:PRINT"Page ";pg;" of ";npg
1340 END DEFine show_files
1350 :
1360 DEFine PROCedure get_device(m$)
1370  REPeat d_loop
1380   device$="":AT 23,0:CLS 4
1390   PRINT"Device ";m$;"  ";:PAPER 2
1400   PRINT TO 40;"[Press number key for choice]";TO 80
1410   PAPER 4:AT 24,0:CLS 4
1420   PRINT"  1/MDV1_  2/MDV2_  3/FLP1_  4/FLP2_";
1430   PRINT"  5/RAM1_  6/RAM2_  7/Other  8/Exit : ?";
1440   REPeat key_loop
1450    i$=INKEY$(-1):AT 24,74:PRINT i$;:d="0"&i$:d$=""
1460    IF d>0 AND d<9 THEN EXIT key_loop
1470    BEEP 1000,90:AT 24,74:PRINT" ";
1480   END REPeat key_loop
1490   SELect ON d
1500    =8:RETurn
1510    =1:d$="MDV1_"
1520    =2:d$="MDV2_"
1530    =3:d$="FLP1_"
1540    =4:d$="FLP2_"
1550    =5:d$="RAM1_"
1560    =6:d$="RAM2_"
1570    =REMAINDER
1580   END SELect
1590   IF d$<>"" THEN device$=d$:EXIT d_loop
1600   IF d=7:AT 24,0:CLS 4
1610    INPUT"  Device name : ";device$
1620    IF LEN(device$)=5
1630     IF device$(5)="_" THEN EXIT d_loop
1640   END IF :END IF
1650  END REPeat d_loop
1660 END DEFine get_device
1670 :
1680 DEFine PROCedure heading(i$)
1690  PAPER 4:INK 0:BORDER 1,7:CLS
1700  PAPER 2:INK 0:AT 2,0:CLS 1
1710  i=(40-LEN(i$))/2:CSIZE 2,1
1720  AT 0,i:PRINT i$:CSIZE 0,0
1730  PAPER 4:INK 0:AT 3,0
1740 END DEFine heading
1750 :
1760 DEFine FuNction keyin$(c,lin,col,m$)
```

```
1770  AT#c,lin,col:CLS#c,4
1780  PRINT#c,m$;:PAPER#c,7:PRINT#c," ";
1790  i$=INKEY$(#c,-1)
1800  IF c=1 THEN PAPER#c,4:ELSE PAPER#c,2
1810  AT#c,lin,col+LEN(m$):PRINT #c,i$;:RETurn i$
1820 END DEFine keyin$
1830 :
1840 DEFine PROCedure dir_print
1850  k$="":heading"Print Directory to printer"
1860  AT 4,1:INPUT"Give heading : ";hd$
1870  AT 24,20:CLS 4
1880  PRINT"{Printing  to printer (ser1). Have printer online}"
1890  OPEN#7,ser1
1900  PRINT#7,"DIRECTORY of ";source$;" : ";a$;"  ";b$;TO 60;DATE$
1910  PRINT#7,\hd$\:show_files 7,0:PRINT #7,\\\\:CLOSE#7
1920 END DEFine dir_print
1930 :
1940 DEFine PROCedure sav:SAVE flp2_cdir_bas:END DEFine sav
```

Ed note:

The above program is an abbreviated version of DIRLUX, available as a one of three programs on CHAOS BUSTERS, from Wood and Wind Computing, RR 3, Box 92, Cornish NH 03745. Other programs are Filex, a transfer program to place all your directories in an ARCHIVE Database, and DBEasy, a front end for ARCHIVE that accesses much of its power without need to learn database programming. Price $29.95 on disk, $33.95 on microcartridge.

BE SMUG

The Sinclair Milwaukee User Group will host the 1990 Sinclair Computer Exposition in (where else) Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the weekend of June 2 & 3.

If you plan to attend, contact Peter Hale at (617) 889-0830 to co-ordinate transportation.

The flyer for the exposition is reproduced on the inside back cover.

INNOCENTS ABROAD

We recently received a copy of the QL Australia, from a QL User Group in New South Wales.

We understand that the group may have as few a 11 members, but you would never now it to look at their newsletter.

It has the look of offset, and may not have been produced on a QL, but its content is meaty.

It had the most understandable exposition of C programming I have come across and an innovative program to let the QL act like an overhead projector.

We also received QUASAR, the newsletter of Germany's Sinclair QL User Club which is promoting interchange with user groups throughout the world.

Unfortunately my German is not as good as it once was, but several tidbits are worth passing on.

The group has 950 members through out Europe, and publishes a handsome quarterly newsletter.

They have a multi-lingual public domain software library.

The group's interests range from Packet Radio to Pascal and from Machine Code to adventure games.

The Group supports all QDOS machines, including the THOR, the QL-Atari and the QL-Amiga.

PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY for TS-1000 and TS-2068

(The following announcement was received from Tim L. Ward)

Timex/Sinclair User Groups:

The Timex/Sinclair Public Domain Library has collected an extensive library of information that could be of use to your group.

In addition to our software library (386 TS-1000 programs, 128 TS-2068 programs, RLE graphics, LKDOS utilities) we offer a user group mailing list, a TS/user address file and a index of Time Designs Magazine articles.

We plan to offer much more, but we need your help.

We need program submissions to help the library grow, but we would also like ideas for things that you'd like to see.

How about cross-referenced index for all TS-related magazines? We can do it with your help.

We would be glad to trade public domain libraries or mailing lists with your group, as we are trying to build the largest amount of TS-related data in North America, at the lowest cost to users.

Our library offers discs in LKDOS format for both TS1000 and 2068 as well as cassettes; any disc or tape is $4.00 ppd for those interested in buying the library (3 tape/discs-2068, 8 tapes/10 discs-1000). Please get in touch with us if we can be of help to your group or if you would like to help our library grow.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Ward, TS-1000 Librarian
Tony Willing,TS-2068 Librarian
5412-D Ginko Dr. S.W., Tacoma, WA 98439

UPDATE TO LIVE

The last reliable magazine for TS-2068 and QL users in North America has had some difficulty the past year but now will live.

UPDATE Magazine (1317 Stratford Ave, Panama City, FL 32404) had developed as Bill Jones' hobby in support of the Sinclair computer.

In the past year the required energy level has been more than Bill wanted to handle alone and he wants to sail the Caribbean with his wife.

After several pleas for help, Frank Davis stepped forward and beginning with the October 1990 issue he will be the publisher.

UPDATE has been successful in a field littered with shreds of failed publications.

Some of the remarkable features of UPDATE are a sense of humor and useful educational articles.

It has proved that you can publish a magazine that appeals to advanced users without leaving the neophyte confused.

The subscription price of $18.00 for four 50 page quarterly issues is a steal, given the cost of printing and postage without subsidy from advertising.

The magazine has supported North American software programmers with the innovative concept of pubishing 'issue discs' with software at reasonable prices.

Bill has always maintained a supportive role for the Sinclair community - a community not without its divisions.

There has been a tradition at UPDATE of not paying authors. And yet it has survived with a hopper full of articles waiting to be published while other magazines that paid have folded.

Who says the spirit of volunteerism is dead in America?

ALTKEY BOOT
by Al Boehm

This little boot sets some ALTKEY variables used when programming SuperBASIC. The choices are interesting, but not the point.

The point is that it's easy to forget the values assigned to some ALTKEYS.

This boot LISTs on the screen the ALTKEY assignments. They stay there only for a short time, while extension files are being loaded. Then they disappear with the NEW command.

```
90 REMark AL BOEHM'S BOOT - PLOT,
    WINDOW, & EXTENSIONS 4 Mar 89
95 REMark ======================
100 PAPER #2,0:CLS #2
110 PAPER #2,4:INK #2,0
120 WINDOW #0, 459,255-210,24,211
130 WINDOW #1, 459,210,24,0
140 WINDOW #2, 459,210,24,0
150 CLS:LIST 170 TO 270
160 REMark ALTKEYS
165 REMark ======================
170 ALTKEY 'b',"window
     511,255,0,0 : paper 0 : cls"
180 ALTKEY 'd',"def proc "
190 ALTKEY 'f',"def fn "
200 ALTKEY 'e',"end def
     : rem==============="
210 ALTKEY 'i',"paper#0,0
     : ink#0,7 : paper 2:ink 7
     : paper#2,4 : ink#2,0"
220 ALTKEY 'o',"open #3,ser1"
230 ALTKEY 'p',"print "
240 ALTKEY 'r',"rem
     ========================="
250 ALTKEY 't',"window
     #0,459,45,24,211
     : window #2,230,210,24,0
     : window #1,229,210,254,0"
260 ALTKEY 'w',"window
     #0,459,45,24,211
     : window #1,459,210,24,0
     : window #2,459,210,24,0"
270 REMark CALLS FOR EXTENSIONS
    AND PROGRAMS
275 REMark ======================
280 a=RESPR(640) : LBYTES
     flp2_extensions_code,a
     : CALL a
290 a=RESPR(250) : LBYTES
     flp2_screens_obj,a : CALL a
300 a=RESPR(600) : LBYTES
     flp2_plot,a : CALL a
310 NEW
```

MEETING NOTES

The most recent meeting of the QL group was held at Al Boehm's home on Saturday, March 3rd.

Dick Taylor demonstrated QL World software that showed molecular structure in rotation by loading a series of screens in rapid sequence.

Al Boehm demonstrated further skills with the new Thor. Ernie Wider, having just acquired a new office Thor, was an apt pupil.

Networking from microdrives on a QL to the THOR was a major part of Ernie's learning.

Mike Mitchell demonstrated a monitor interface for the QL that permitted paper and ink colors to be changed. By rotating a wired switch in the interface, it was possible to have Blue ink or Paper in Mode 4. Quill on a light blue screen with dark blue text is very fine indeed. Mike plans to develop a more sophisticated hardware version that will work in Mode 8 as well.

Another of Mike's demonstrations was an application of the Prairie Digital Analogue/Digital Input/ Output (ADIO) interface board to position rotating cams at will once the QL had 'learned' the cam's configuration.

Mike's final demonstration in networking was less sucessful. The object was to permit one computer to write directly to the screen of a networked remote QL. Unfortunately, the Thor showed some incompatibility in the demo.

The idea is part of a game that Mike is developing for playing BATTLESHIP on a pair of QL's.

If you remember the children's game, the object is to destroy an enemy's fleet without being able to see its position - hence the networked QL's.

Lunch was fantastic, and we welcomed first timer Norm Shein.

S.M.U.G. Presents

The 1990 SINCLAIR COMPUTER Exposition

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

June 2 & 3 /Banquet Friday Night June 1

SEMINARS, DOOR PRIZES, SWAP SHOP,
SOFTWARE, PERIPHERALS, HARDWARE,
AND LOTS OF OTHER STUFF

Location

WAUKESHA HOLIDAY INN (414) 786-0460

Hwy 18 & I94 Waukesha, WI 53186

There will be a **SNUG** meeting Saturday Night June 2, 1990

Ticket Information:

	in advance	at the door	
One day	: $ 4.00	$ 5.00	
Both days	: $ 7.00	$ 9.00	
Banquet	: $16.00	$16.00	Limited seating
Table	: $25.00 (incld. 2 day badge)	$25.00	Limited table space

Tables are 6 feet by 30 inches

For **MORE INFORMATION** contact

Bill Heberlein
5052 N. 91st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53225

or

Neal Schultz
call 7 - 10pm
(414) 353-4522

for **RESERVATIONS** mail to:

Expo Reservations
P.O. Box 101
Butler, WI 53007

Detach and Mail

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip_____

Please reserve _____ one day badge @ $ 4.00 each = $_____

Please reserve _____ two day badges @ $ 7.00 each = $_____

Please reserve _____ Banquet tickets @ $16.00 each = $_____

Please reserve _____ 6' x 30" tables @ $25.00 each = $_____

I have included a check/money order for total = $_____